

designated as a *cockarouse*. Capt. John Smith (*Hist. of Virginia*, p. 23) says that the tribes subject to Powhatan had each "a severall commander, which they call *Werowance*,—except the *Chickahamaneans*, who are governed by the Priests and their Assistants, or their Elders called *Caw-cawaassoughes*." In another place (p. 38) he mentions the "*Caucarouse*," as a "captain:" but the etymology of the name, as well as the sense in which it was adopted by the English, shows that it is better translated by "councillor" than by "captain." "A *cockarouse* says Beverly (*Hist. of Virginia*, b. 3, ch. 2), "is one that has the honor to be of the king's or queen's council, with relation to the affairs of government." In *cawcawwasough* (= *cau'cau-as'u*) I find the origin—hitherto undetected—of the word *Caucus* and its derivatives. "This noun," wrote Mr. Pickering, in 1816, "is used throughout the United States as a *cant* term for those meetings, which are held by different political parties, for the purpose of agreeing upon candidates for office, or concerting any measure which they intend to carry at the subsequent *public* or *town-meetings*." Gordon (*Hist. of the Am. Revolution*, vol. i., p. 365) remarks, under the date of 1774, that "the word *caucus* and its derivative *caucusing* are often used in Boston;" that "it is not of novel invention"; for, that "more than fifty years ago," i. e. before 1724, "Mr. Samuel Adams's father and twenty others, *one or two from the north end* of the town, where all the ship business is carried on, used to meet, make a *Caucus*, and lay their plans for introducing certain persons into places of trust and power." From this statement, Mr. Pickering strangely enough drew the inference "that these meetings were *first held in a part of Boston* where 'all the ship business was carried on'," and he "therefore thought it not improbable that *Caucus* might be a corruption of *Caulkers*, the word 'meetings' being understood." However numerous and influential the Boston ship-caulkers may have been, even in 1724, it is hardly probable that "one or two" of them, coming "from the north end" to meet Mr. Adams and nearly twenty others in the south part of the town, thereby conferred a name of the club.

⁶ Comp. Strachey, *Hist. of Travaille into Virginia*, p. 62.